

Amendment to the Claims:

Claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-16 and 19-25 are currently pending in this application.

Please cancel claims 4 and 17-18 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter of claims 4 and 17-18.

Please add new claim 25 as shown below.

A listing of the entire set of pending claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-16 and 19-25 is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-16 and 19-25 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a particular user to program the particular user's remote control device for use with the particular user's consumer electronics equipment, the method comprising:

a) connecting a network connectable an Internet-connectable appliance to a dedicated server on the network Internet in response to the particular user controlling the particular user's remote control device, ~~the server having an associated customer base comprising respective user profiles, each of the respective user profiles identifying consumer electronics equipment associated with a respective remote control device of a respective user;~~

b) requesting, by the dedicated server via the network connectable appliance, alphanumeric information from the particular user, corresponding to the particular user's consumer electronics equipment, wherein said dedicated server request is made to said network connectable appliance responsive to said connection at said step (a);

c) supplying, from the particular user to the dedicated server, via the network connectable appliance, the requested alphanumeric information, corresponding to the particular user's consumer electronics equipment;

~~selecting, at the server, a particular one of the respective user profiles that is associated with the particular user's remote control device;~~

d) performing a query, at the dedicated server, based on the alphanumeric information supplied by the particular user, to match the alphanumeric information supplied by the particular user with alphanumeric information stored in a data repository, wherein the data repository relates types, versions and brands of consumer electronics equipment to their respective control codes; and

e) downloading, from the dedicated server to the network connectable Internet-connectable appliance, data representative of at least one control code, wherein said data matches the alphanumeric information supplied by the particular user for use with the particular user's consumer electronics equipment; and

f) using the Internet-connectable appliance for programming the particular user's remote control device according to the downloaded data representative of at least one control code, via the network connectable appliance.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a menu to the particular user for customizing the programming of the particular user's remote control device in accordance with the downloaded data, prior to said act (e).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said act (e) further comprises further comprising transmitting a wireless signal including the data representative of at least one control code from the Internet-network connectable appliance to the particular user's remote control device for the programming thereof.

Claims 4. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a network connectable ~~an Internet-connectable~~ appliance configured to program a remote control device based on data received from a dedicated server, according to a user profile associated with the remote control device; and

the ~~a~~ remote control device for user-control of the ~~Internet-network~~ connectable appliance; wherein: the remote control device including means has a button for causing the ~~Internet-connectable~~ network connectable appliance to initiate a connection connecting to a ~~the dedicated~~ server on the ~~network~~ Internet; the remote control device is programmed to send a user profile identifying consumer electronics equipment to the server;

the dedicated server configured to maintain ~~maintains~~ a data repository customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles; the dedicated server being further configured to request alphanumeric information from a particular user's network connectable appliance, corresponding to the particular user's consumer electronics equipment, responsive to said connection to the network connectable appliance; and the ~~Internet-connectable~~ appliance programs the remote control device based on data received from the server, according to the user profile associated with the remote control device.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the ~~Internet-network~~ connectable appliance includes means for allowing ~~allows~~ a user to customize the programming of the remote control device based on the data received from the server.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the ~~Internet-network~~ connectable appliance transmits a wireless signal to the remote control device for achieving the programming of to program the remote control device.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~Internet-~~
network connectable appliance comprises a set top box.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, the method comprising:

enabling respective users of consumer electronics equipment to specify, to a dedicated server on a data network, alphanumeric information about the respective users' consumer electronics equipment ~~to create a plurality of~~
~~respective user profiles for the customer base, wherein the users specify the~~
information about the respective users' consumer electronics equipment via a query/answer session conducted between the user and the dedicated server via an intermediary network compatible device;

creating a plurality of respective user profiles for the customer base based on the user supplied alphanumeric information about the respective users' consumer electronics equipment conducted via said query/answer sessions; and

~~enabling to program, via the data network, remote user control of the~~
~~respective users' consumer electronics equipment according to the~~
~~information; and~~

storing the alphanumeric information in the customer base.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

supplying targeted or customized advertisements or services to the
respective users, via the respective network compatible devices. ~~respective-~~
~~remote control devices for each of the respective~~

~~users that are pre-programmed for use with respective set top boxes;~~
thereby subsidizing the respective network compatible devices. ~~wherein the~~
~~method is used for subsidizing the respective set top boxes.~~

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising using the customer base to provide customized services to the respective users.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a customized service to a user of consumer electronics equipment, the method comprising:

receiving, at a dedicated server on a data network, alphanumeric information about the user's consumer electronics equipment;
~~providing~~ creating a user profile based on the information; and
using the user profile to enable the user to program, via the data network, a remote control device for controlling the user's consumer electronics equipment;

wherein the server stores the information in a customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, and each of the plurality of user profiles comprises at least one of (1) demographic information for an associated user and (2) data representative of a control code and/or UI for consumer electronics equipment information for an associated user.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a user to control at least one consumer apparatus with a remote control device via an network connectable appliance ~~that is Internet-connectable~~, the method comprising:

connecting the network connectable appliance to a dedicated server on the ~~Internet~~ network in response to the user controlling the remote control device, the dedicated server having an associated customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, each of the plurality of user profiles identifying one or more consumer apparatuses for an associated user ; and

downloading, from the dedicated server to the appliance, data representative of at least one control code for control of ~~the particular~~ at least

| one consumer apparatus via the network connectable appliance, according to a user profile associated with the remote control device.

17. – 18. (Cancelled)

| 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the menu allows the particular user to specify whether certain operations provided by the downloaded data are desired.

| 20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the menu allows the particular user to program a single action on the particular user's remote control device to cause the execution of multiple activities of the particular user's consumer electronics equipment.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a display with a graphical representation of the particular user's remote control device for use in the programming of the particular user's remote control device.

| 22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
downloading, from the dedicated server to the Internet-connectable appliance, user interface data regarding the particular user's remote control device.

| 23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
using the ~~Internet-connectable~~ network connectable appliance for the programming of the particular user's remote control device according to the user interface data.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
the user interface data provides information regarding features that
support
user interaction with the user's remote control device.
25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.